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REMARKS

Examiner Muller has rejected claims 1-3 of the present application. For the reasons which follow, applicant respectfully traverses this rejection of the Examiner. The applicant does, however, wish to extend appreciation to Examiner Muller for the quite detailed review of the claims of the present invention leading to the finding of patentable subject matter of the claims of the present application and an indication of the allowability of claim 4 if rewritten.

Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claims 1-3 and amended in a manner suggested by the Examiner to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 and to place it in condition for allowance. Such favorable action is respectfully requested.

The Examiner has cited the United States patents listed in NOTICE OF REFERENCES CITED as B-F in the Office communication mailed December 20, 2005 and as C-E in the Office communication mailed July 27, 2005. By the lack of application of these references and others like them within the classes or subclasses searched, the Examiner apparently recognizes the clear patentability of the present invention over any of these references.

Therefore, since the claims of the present application have been shown to include limitations directed to the features of applicant's protective sleeve for use with extension bar which are neither shown, described, taught, nor alluded to in any of the references cited by the Examiner, whether those references are taken singly or in any combination, the Examiner is requested to allow claim 4, as amended, of the present application and to pass this application to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Bobby Hu

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